

Caldwell County Natural Area Inventory

GLOBE MOUNTAIN/TATE MOUNTAIN Significant Natural Heritage Area

Site Significance: State

Size: 1,591 acres

Quadrangles: Collettsville and Globe

Ownership: U.S. Forest Service and Private

SIGNIFICANT FEATURES: This site is part of the large contiguous forests along the Blue Ridge Escarpment. Within the site are several areas of remnant old growth forest, with one of the best examples of Chestnut Oak Forest in the state. Also present within the site are occurrences of several special status plant species including Blue Ridge bindweed (*Calystegia catesbeiana* ssp. *sericata*), broadleaf tickseed (*Coreopsis latifolia*), and the uncommon Fraser's sedge (*Cymophyllus fraserianus*).

LANDSCAPE RELATIONSHIPS: This natural area is located in north central Caldwell County in a large area of Pisgah National Forest. The Johns River bisects the site, and the town of Lenoir is located 9.4 miles to the southeast. Gragg Forests and Grandfather Mountain are located 5.0 and 6.5 miles to the northwest respectively. Buffalo Cove Forests lies 5.0 miles east, and Wilson Creek Slopes/Lost Cove Creek/Thorps Creek lies 3.2 miles west.

SITE DESCRIPTION: This site is located in a forested region of moderately steep slopes and mountain peaks along the Blue Ridge Escarpment. The Johns River creates a riverine valley leading down from the summits of Globe and Tate Mountains. The forests vary from moist to dry cove forest along the river up to the lower slopes with dry woodlands upslope and along the ridges, and patches of mature old growth forest in scattered localities.

Abundant examples of Acidic Cove Forest with mixed mesophytic canopy species are found throughout the natural area in low sheltered coves. The forest has a closed canopy except along the larger streams where light gaps are present. Dominant canopy tree species include tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), and sweet birch (*Betula lenta*). The understory is well-defined, with ironwood (*Carpinus caroliniana*), American holly (*Ilex opaca*), sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*), and black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*). Shrubs vary from sparse to very dense, with dominant shrubs being great laurel (*Rhododendron maximum*), gorge rhododendron (*Rhododendron minus*), pinxter-flower (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*), and mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) in the dense areas. More open understory species include blueberries (*Vaccinium* spp.) and horse-sugar (*Symplocos tinctoria*). Woody vines are locally abundant, with poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) and cross-vine (*Bignonia capreolata*) common. The herbaceous layer is abundant and diverse. Common herbs include turtlehead (*Chelone* sp.), spotted St. John's-wort (*Hypericum punctatum*), rattlesnake-weed (*Hieracium*